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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In July 1951 about 2,000 graduates of colleges in the Shanghai area were gathered at Chiao Tung (0074/6639) University by Chinese Communist authorities to receive two months of thought training before being assigned to jobs. Those students who lived in Shanghai were permitted to go home Saturday evening, but had to return by Sunday night.
2. The graduates got up at 6 a.m. and had one hour of exercises. The hour from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. was for study. Breakfast at 8 a.m. consisted of rice congee and a plate of beans or peanuts. After breakfast the students either attended lectures or small discussion groups until the mid-day meal. The afternoon was filled with lectures or discussions and dinner was served at 6 p.m.
3. During the lectures all the graduates gathered in the assembly hall of the university and listened to one or two speakers. No questions or discussions were permitted. Mimeographed outlines of the lectures were given to the students, who also had to take notes on the lectures. Typical lectures were "Why We Should Forget Ourselves and Work for the Country," "How to Avenge the Unequal Treaties," and "Why We Should Not be Pushed Around by Foreigners."
4. The discussions were held in groups of 25, who were further divided into sub-groups of four to six persons. Each person in the sub-group was given a mimeographed sheet of questions on the lectures to answer. The answers were obvious and the leader of the sub-group would be prepared to answer the questions in the large group meeting. During the large group meetings these questions and the lectures were discussed. These meetings were efficiently handled by leaders chosen from among the graduates for their political reliability.
5. The main theme of the thought training which was impressed upon the graduates was "selfless service to the country." The last week of thought training was very emotional. Most of the graduates had been convinced that the survival of China depended on them and so they would gladly take any job assigned

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to them.¹ There were many mass meetings and a great deal of singing in the last week, when all the graduates signed their names on a flag which was sent to MAO Tse-tung. Theoretically a graduate could refuse to take a job which was assigned, but it would be difficult to find another job and the graduate would be closely watched by the police. The graduates were not told of their job assignments until the last day of the training.

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1. Comment. in March 1953 the majority of Chinese college graduates were dissatisfied with their job assignments, particularly since many of the graduates were being sent to Northwest China to aid in the development of that area.

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